

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 /119 W

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R 111125Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1804

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

RUDTCDMAMEMBASSY LONDON 0231

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0949

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, QA

SUBJ: QATARI OIL MINISTER ON POSSIBLE OPEC PRICE HIKE

REF: DOHA 0932, DOHA 0933

1. DURING SEPT 8 CONVERSATION WITH QATARI MINISTER OF FINANCE
AND PETROLEUM SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, AMBASSADOR
ASKED ABOUT GOQ POSITION ON POSSIBLE OPEC OIL PRICE HIKE.
WE NOTED ABDUL AZIZ' RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE STATED
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THAT "SLIGHT" INCREASE FAVORED BY QATARIS, AND RECENT VISIT OF

INDONESIAN MINES MINISTER SADLI (REFTELS), WHO ALSO QUOTED IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS TO EFFECT THAT "MAJORITY" OF OPEC MEMBERS FAVORED PRICE INCREASE.

2. ABDUL AZIZ RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR HIM TO DISCUSS GOQ ATTITUDE TOWARD PRICES. HOWEVER, AS HE HAD REPEATEDLY TOLD US, IT WAS SIMPLE EQUITY FOR OIL PRODUCERS TO ADJUST PRICE OF WHAT THEY SELL TO PRICES OF WHAT THEY HAD TO BUY.

3. WE TOLD ABDUL AZIZ THAT USG BASICALLY OPPOSED SUCH INDEX-ATION OF OIL PRICES, SINCE IT WAS HIGHLY COMPLICATED PROCEDURE THAT NOT REALLY EQUITABLE, AND WHICH PRODUCERS MIGHT FIND ADVERSELY AFFECTED THEIR INTERESTS. WE FURTHER PRESSED POINT THAT OIL PRICE HIKE COULD HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON RECOVERY OF ECONOMIES OF INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND THIS WOULD BOOMERANG ON PRODUCERS.

4. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED ON JOINTLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CIEC COULD COME UP WITH RATIONAL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF EQUITY IN OIL PRODUCER-CONSUMER PRICING.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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